

In the name of Allah
I Year English, Spoken English 2, 2nd semester, 2014
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Word Stresses Practice

In every English word of two or more syllables, one syllable is given particular emphasis compared to the others. This is called **primary stress**. Although it is often not possible to know where to place the stress in unfamiliar word, it can be helpful to remember the following approximate rules.

1. Common nouns and Adjectives

Many common nouns and adjectives are stressed on the first syllable, especially those words that have two syllables. Listen and practice.

No.	Common Nouns	Stress Pattern	No.	Common Adjectives	Stress Pattern
1.	athlete	Oo	1.	better	Oo
2.	breakfast	Oo	2.	clever	Oo
3.	brother	Oo	3.	funny	Oo
4.	building	Oo	4.	happy	Oo
5.	carrot	Oo	5.	naughty	Oo
6.	evening	Oo	6.	stupid	Oo
7.	father	Oo	7.	utter	Oo
8.	metal	Oo	8.	yellow	Oo

2. Compound Nouns

Compound words, particularly nouns are usually stressed on the first part. Listen and practice.

No.	Compound Nouns	Stress Pattern	No.	Compound Nouns	Stress Pattern
1.	barber shop	Ooo	1.	post office	Ooo
2.	can opener	Oooo	2.	travel agent	Oooo
3.	clock tower	Ooo	3.	wrist watch	Oo
4.	motorcycle	Oooo			

1. Parts of Speech

In some words with two syllables, the **first** syllable is stressed when the word is a **noun (N)** or **adjective (A)**, but the **second** syllable is stressed when it is a **verb (V)**. Listen and practice.

No.	Common Nouns	Stress Pattern	No.	Examples
1.	export (N)	Oo	1.	He has an export company.
2.	exports (V)	oO	2.	He exports carpets.
3.	conduct (N)	Oo	3.	Her bad conduct disturbed everyone.
4.	conduct (V)	oO	4.	Please conduct the test well.
5.	produce (N)	Oo	5.	This juice is a produce of Australia.
6.	produce (V)	oO	6.	Please produce your documents tomorrow.
7.	progress (N)	Oo	7.	She's making good progress in her studies.
8.	progress (V)	oO	8.	I'm sure she'll progress in life.

2. Self practice

The following is a list of words similar to the ones in exercise 3. Pronounce each of them twice - first with the stress on the first syllable and then with the stress on the second syllable.

No.	Words	Stress Pattern	No.	Words	Stress Pattern
1.	combat		1.	perfect	
2.	compound		2.	permit	
3.	construct		3.	present	
4.	contest		4.	project	
5.	contract		5.	protest	
6.	contrast		6.	recall	
7.	convert		7.	record	
8.	convict		8.	reject	
9.	decrease		9.	subject	
10.	exploit		10.	survey	
11.	extract		11.	suspect	
12.	frequent		12.	transfer	
13.	insult		13.	transport	
			14.	upset	

Now, practice saying each of the words above in sentences of your own.

3. Endings that are stressed

Note that the following word endings are usually stressed. Listen and practice.

No.	Endings	Word Endings	Stress Pattern
1.	-ee	referee	ooO
2.	-ese	Japanese	ooO
3.	-ique	physique	oO
4.	-eer	mountaineer	ooO
5.	-esque	picturesque	ooO
6.	-ette	brunette	ooO
7.			
8.			

4. Endings that do not influence

The following word endings do not usually cause the primary stress to move. Listen and practice.

No.	Endings	Word	Word with Endings	Stress Pattern
1.	-age	patron	patronage	Ooo
2.	-en	awake	awaken	oOo
3.	-ful	success	successful	oOo
4.	-ing	understand	understanding	oOo
5.	-less	meaning	meaningless	Ooo
6.	-ly	regular	regularly	Oooo
7.	-ment	develop	development	oOoo
8.	-ness	tidy	tidiness	Ooo
9.	-y	comfortable	comfortably	Oooo

5. Endings that influence

The following endings cause the stress to move to the syllable immediately before the ending. Listen and practice.

No.	Endings	Word	Word with endings	Stress Pattern
1.	-graphy	photograph	photography	oOoo
2.	-eous	advantage	advantageous	ooOo
3.	-ious	injury	injurious	oOo
4.	-ial	commerce	commercial	oOo
5.	-ian	comedy	comedian	oOo
6.	-ion	conserve	conservation	ooOo
7.	-ic	academy	academic	ooOo
8.	-ical	economy	economic	ooOo
9.	-ity	able	ability	oOo

6. More practice with common words

Listen and practice.

No.	Words	Stress Pattern	No.	Words	Stress Pattern
	Stress on first syllable			Stress on second syllable	
1.	astronaut	Ooo	1.	confess	oO
2.	chicken	Oo	2.	delicious	oOo
3.	childhood	Oo	3.	determine	oO
4.	coffee	Oo	4.	develop	oOo
5.	devastate	Ooo	5.	electric	oOo
6.	doctor	Oo	6.	potato	oOo
7.	favourite	Ooo	7.	ridiculous	oOoo
8.	interesting	Oooo	8.	success	oO
9.	pencil	Oo	9.	surprising	oOo
10.	popular	Ooo	10.	terrific	oOo
11.	president	Ooo	11.	today	oO
12.	restaurant	Ooo	12.	tomorrow	oOo
13.	salad	Oo			